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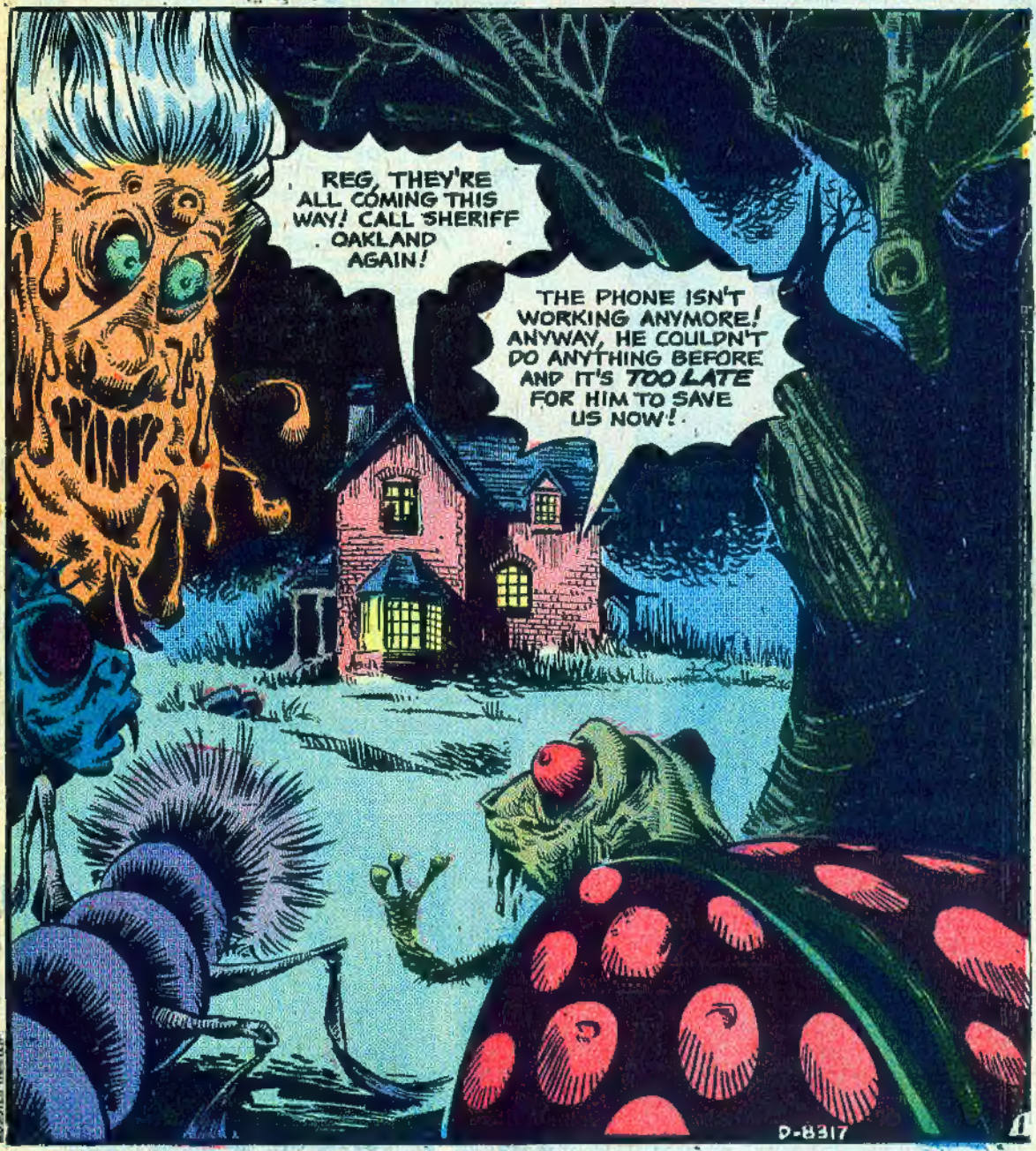
IF THEY HAD THE TIME, THEY PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIGURE IT OUT BUT REG BENSON AND HIS FAMILY WERE TOO BUSY TRYING TO KEEP ALIVE, THEY WERE CONCERNED SOLELY WITH THE FACT THAT...

THE MONSTERS HAVE SURROUNDED the HOUSE!


REG, THEY'RE ALL COMING THIS WAY! CALL SHERIFF OAKLAND AGAIN!
THE PHONE ISN'T WORKING ANYMORE! ANYWAY, HE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING BEFORE AND IT'S TOO LATE FOR HIM TO SAVE US NOW!
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MONSTER HUNTERS

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IT HAD BEGUN WITH HAL BENSON, ON A CLEAR SUMMER DAY. ABOUT THE ONLY THING THAT SEEMED WRONG WITH THE LATE AFTERNOON WAS THAT THE FISH WEREN'T BITING.

SHUCKS! I HAD MY MOUTH ALL SET FOR A DELICIOUS TROUT DINNER!

ME TOO!

I GOT MINE READY FOR **BEANS** 'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE GET WHEN I DON'T BRING HOME THE FISH.

HEY, LOOKEE THERE. I SEE SOMETHING SHINY IN THE GRASS.

LIX DELTA

THAT'S ONE WEIRD LOOKING CAN AND THE LID IS... *UNGH*... SCREWED ON REAL TIGHT. HEAVY TOO.

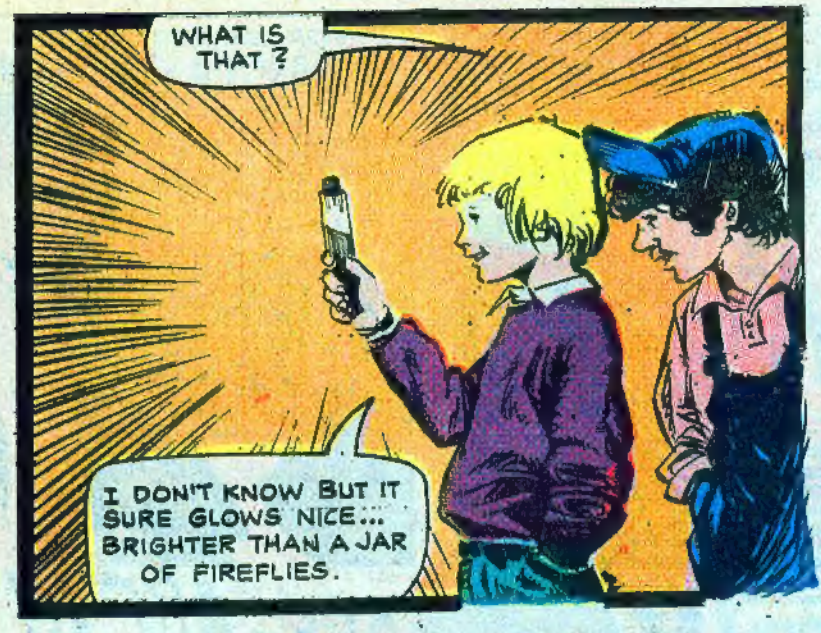
LET'S TAKE IT TO YOUR PLACE AND PRY IT OPEN!

THE SIMPLE COUNTRY BOY, FOLLOWING HIS NORMAL ADOLESCENT CURIOSITY, WAS BRINGING CATASTROPHE HOME TO HIS UNSUSPECTING FAMILY.

YEAH, MY DAD'S GOT SOME TOOLS IN THE BARN WHICH SHOULD UNSTICK THE COVER!

YOUR POP'S GONNA GIVE YOU SOME WHIPPING FOR BUSTING ALL OF HIS TOOLS. GLAD IT AIN'T ME!

AT LEAST WE GOT THE TOP OFF. LET'S SEE WHA... HOO-WHEE! LOOK AT THAT!


WHAT IS THAT ?
I DON'T KNOW BUT IT SURE GLOWS NICE... BRIGHTER THAN A JAR OF FIREFLIES.

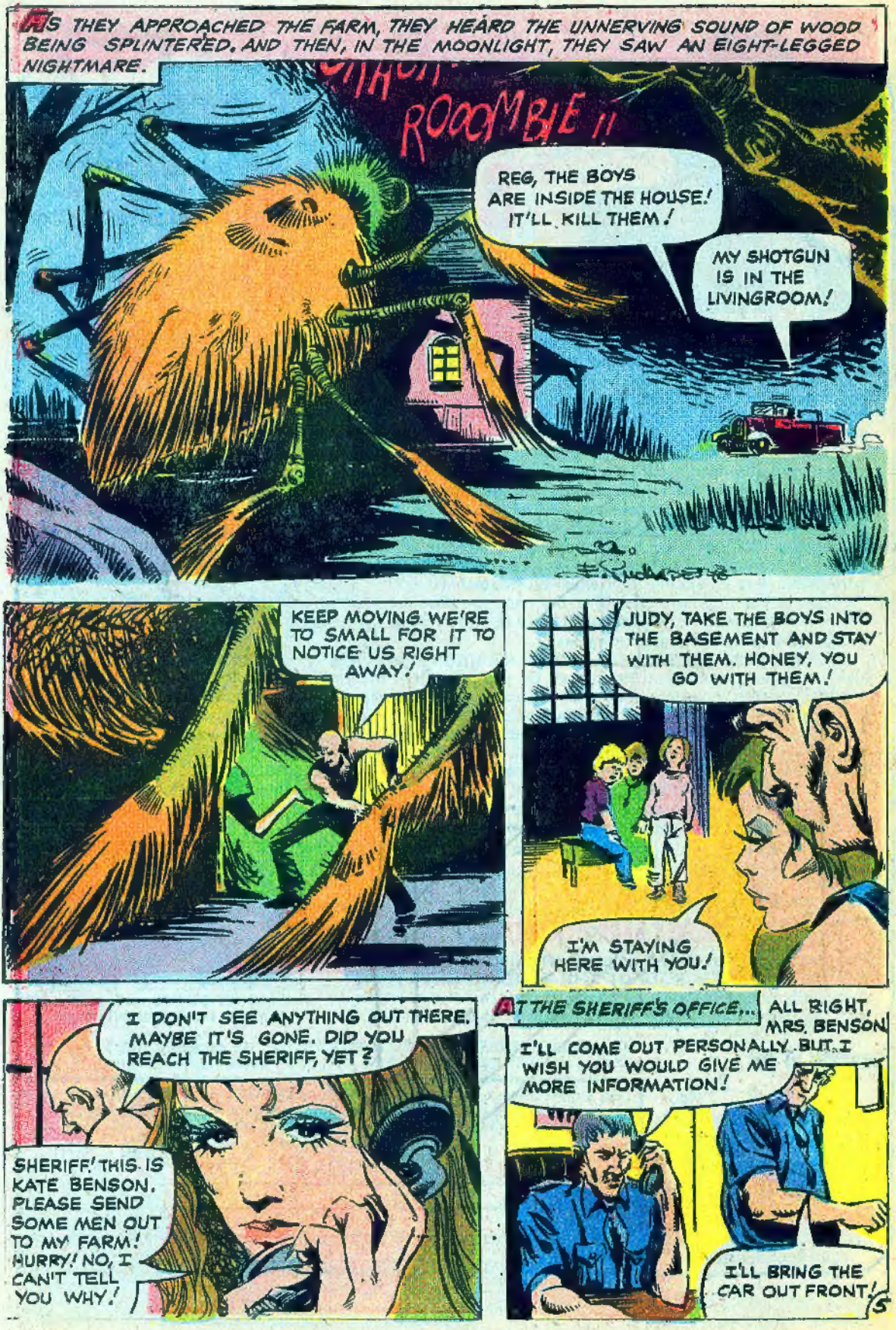
I'VE GOT TO GET HOME, HAL. YOU BETTER HIDE THAT... THAT GLOW TUBE. GROWN-UPS TAKE THOSE THINGS AWAY FROM KIDS.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. BYE, JERRY!

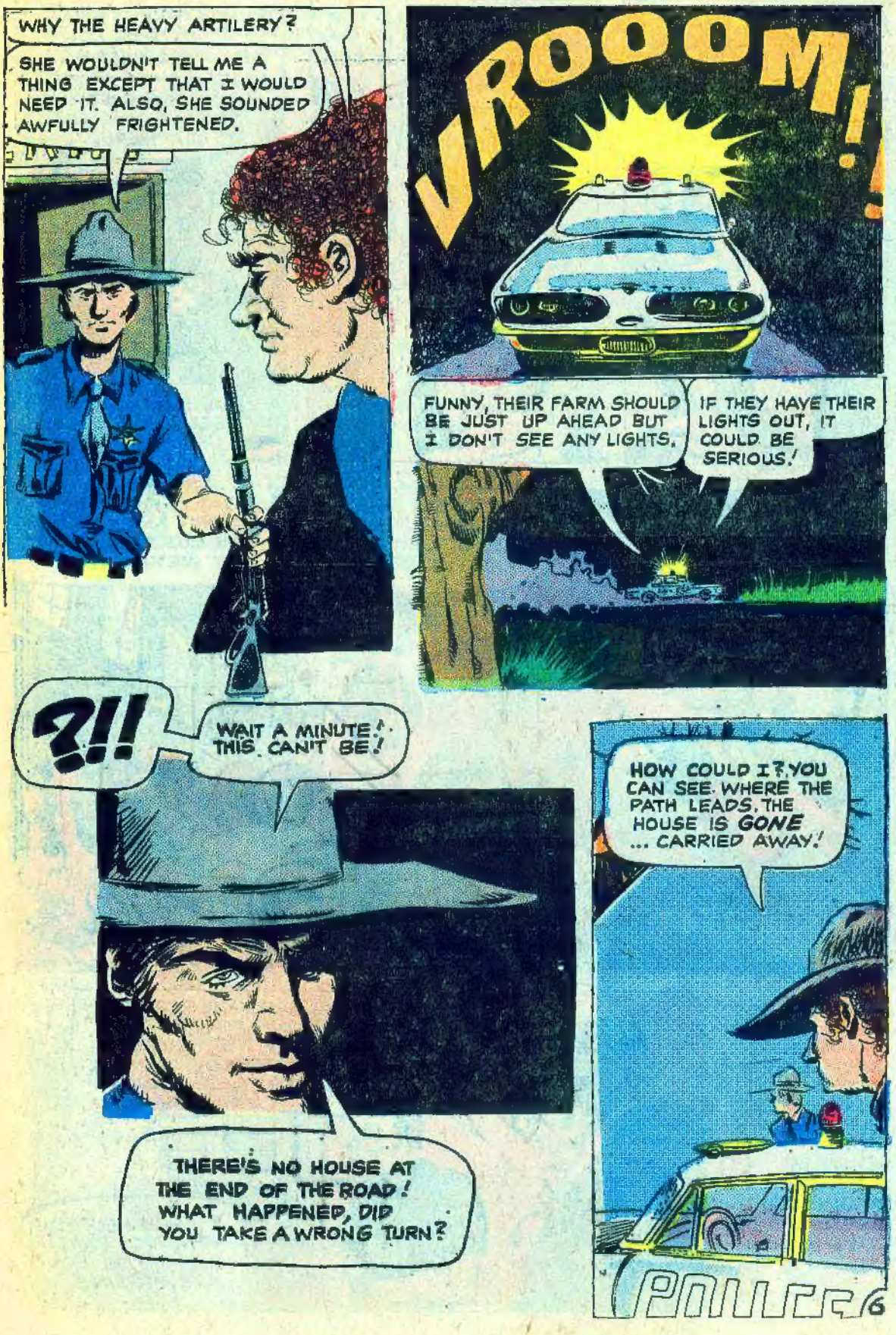
IT SHOULD BE OKAY THERE AND ANY TIME I WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT IT, I JUST HAVE TO REACH UNDER THE HAY TO PULL IT OUT.

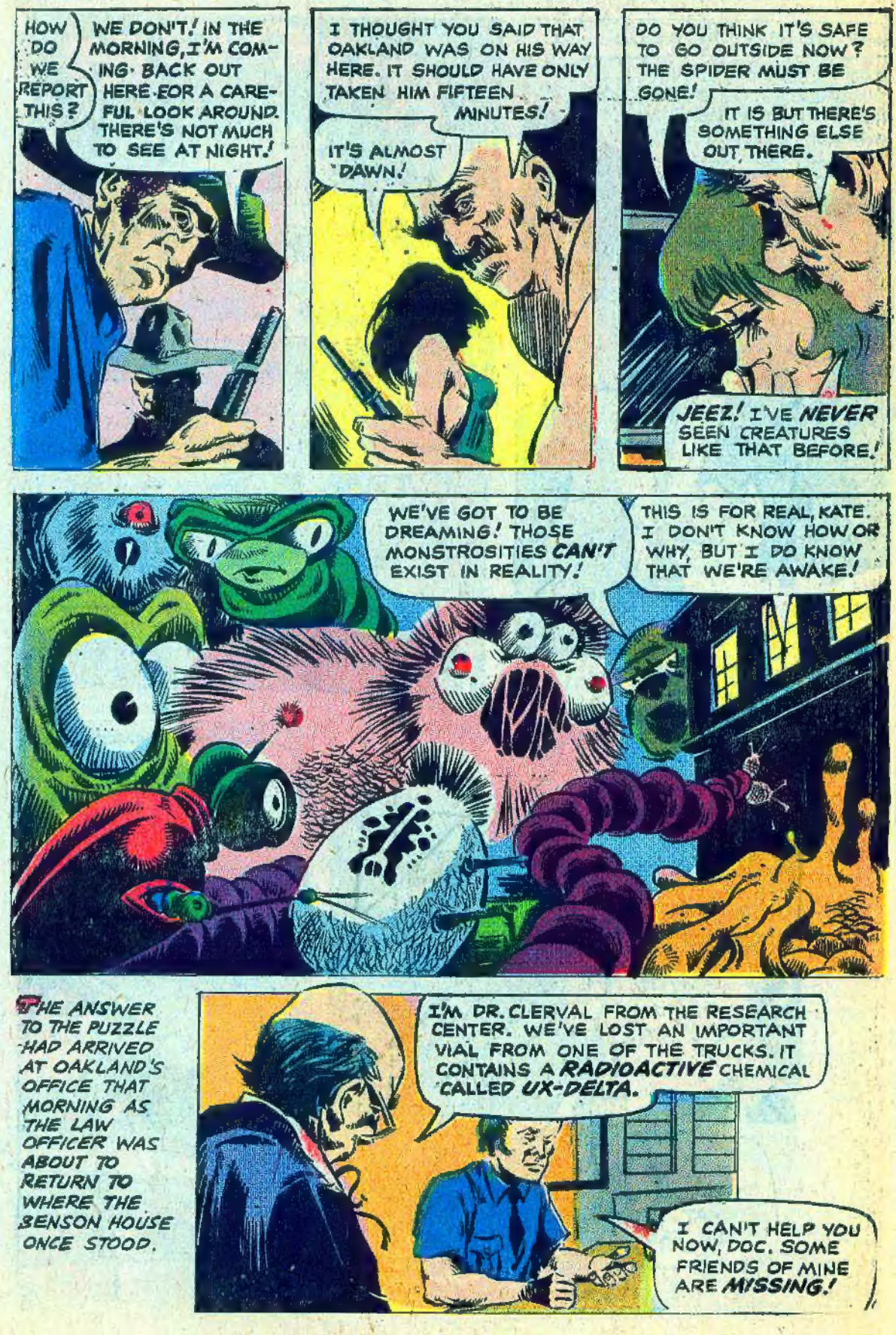
HAL WAS PUNISHED FOR WHAT HE DID TO HIS DAD'S EQUIPMENT AND NOT ALLOWED INTO THE BARN...
IF MY FOOL KID HADN'T BENT MY SCREWDRIVER LAST WEEK, I WOULD HAVE THIS JOB FINISHED BY NOW!

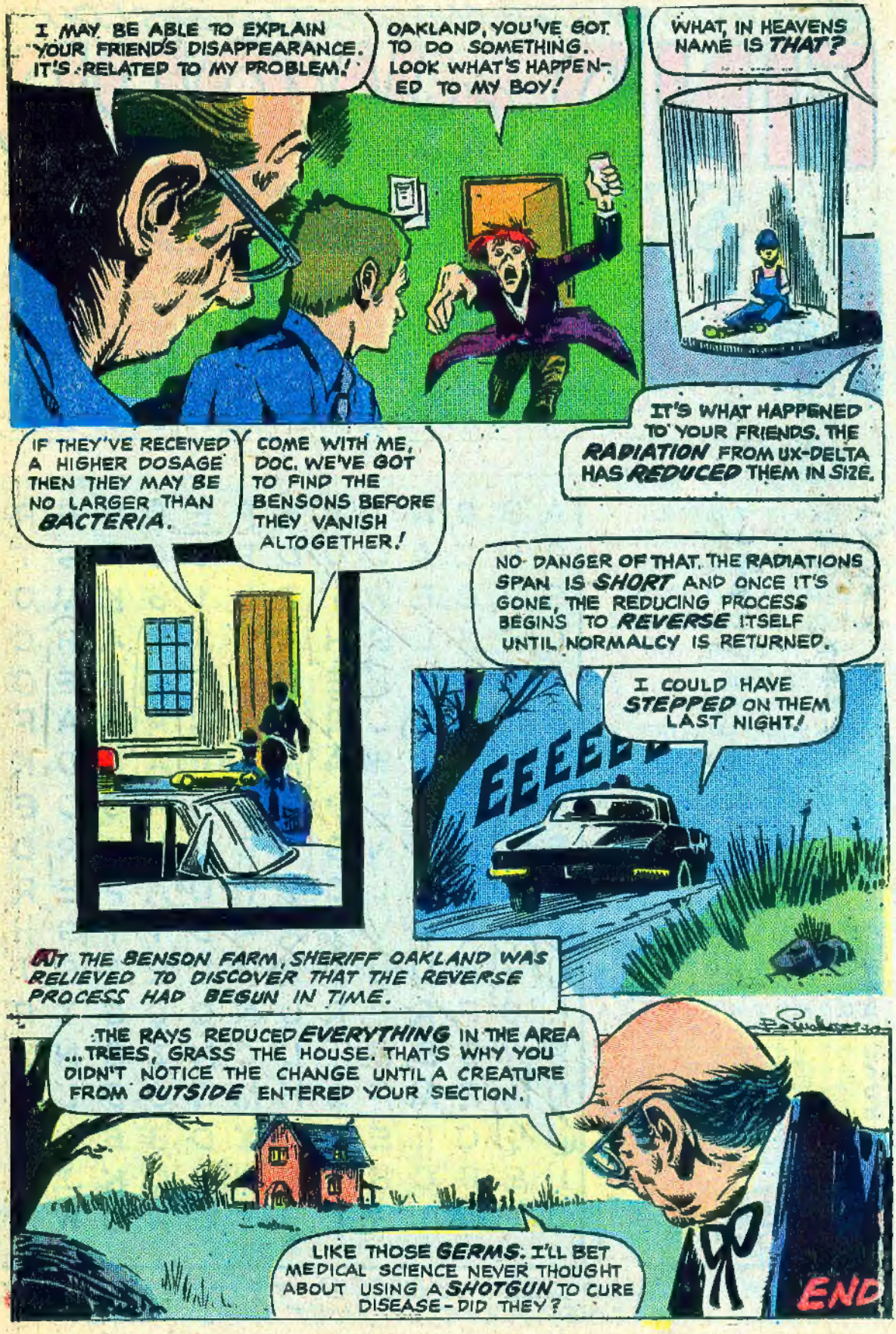
THERE, IT'S DONE. BUT ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GOING TO TOWN AND BUY SOME REPLACEMENTS!
AROOOOOOOO!!
?
REG, DID YOU HEAR THAT? IT SOUNDED LIKE THE DIRKSON'S HOUND BUT IT'S SO LOUD.
BLAM!!

HE'S PROBABLY IN THE CORNFIELD AGAIN. I'LL SEE IF I CAN FIND HIM!
I'M COMING WITH YOU. I DON'T WANT TO STAY IN THE TRUCK BY MYSELF.
I NEVER HEARD SUCH NOISE. IT'S AS IF HE WAS EATING CORN RIGHT BESIDE US BUT I DON'T...WHAT'S THAT SHAPE?
DON'T RIGHTLY KNOW. I'LL SHINE THE BEAM ON IT!
GOOD LORD! IT IS THE KIRKSON HOUND! BUT THE SIZE OF IT!
?!
ARF-ARF!!!
AR-OOO!!
WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE TRUCK!
ARF-ARF!!
WHAT HAPPENED TO IT? WHY IS IT SO BIG?!
THEY CAN GROW CUCUMBERS THE SIZE OF LOGS, SO NOW THEY'VE MADE A DOG AS BIG AS A BARN.
ARF-ARF AR-ARF-ARF!!
IT'S THOSE FOOLS AT THE RESEARCH PLANT. THEY'RE... EXPERIMENTING WITH ANIMALS AND SUCH!
HE'S FOLLOWING US AND HE'S EVEN LARGER NOW.

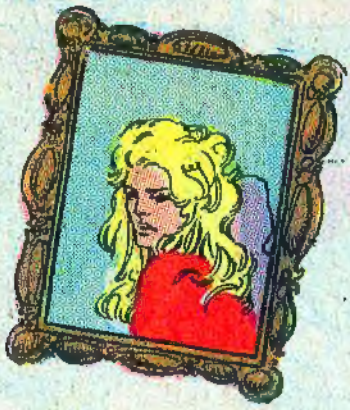

AS THEY APPROACHED THE FARM, THEY HEARD THE UNNERVING SOUND OF WOOD BEING SPLINTERED. AND THEN, IN THE MOONLIGHT, THEY SAW AN EIGHT-LEGGED NIGHTMARE.
ROOOMBLE !!
REG, THE BOYS ARE INSIDE THE HOUSE! IT'LL KILL THEM!
MY SHOTGUN IS IN THE LIVINGROOM!
KEEP MOVING. WE'RE TO SMALL FOR IT TO NOTICE US RIGHT AWAY!
JUDY, TAKE THE BOYS INTO THE BASEMENT AND STAY WITH THEM. HONEY, YOU GO WITH THEM!
I'M STAYING HERE WITH YOU!
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING OUT THERE. MAYBE IT'S GONE. DID YOU REACH THE SHERIFF, YET?
SHERIFF! THIS IS KATE BENSON. PLEASE SEND SOME MEN OUT TO MY FARM! HURRY! NO, I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY!
AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE...
ALL RIGHT, MRS. BENSON I'LL COME OUT PERSONALLY BUT I WISH YOU WOULD GIVE ME MORE INFORMATION!
I'LL BRING THE CAR OUT FRONT!

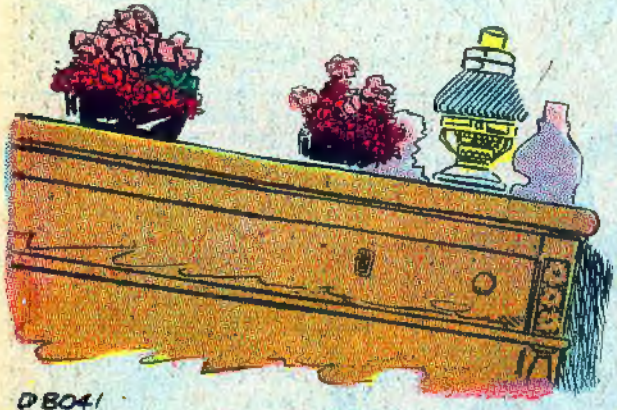

WHY THE HEAVY ARTILERY?
SHE WOULDN'T TELL ME A THING EXCEPT THAT I WOULD NEED IT. ALSO, SHE SOUNDED AWFULLY FRIGHTENED.
VROOOM!
FUNNY, THEIR FARM SHOULD BE JUST UP AHEAD BUT I DON'T SEE ANY LIGHTS.
IF THEY HAVE THEIR LIGHTS OUT, IT COULD BE SERIOUS!
?!!
WAIT A MINUTE! THIS CAN'T BE!
THERE'S NO HOUSE AT THE END OF THE ROAD! WHAT HAPPENED, DID YOU TAKE A WRONG TURN?
HOW COULD I? YOU CAN SEE WHERE THE PATH LEADS. THE HOUSE IS GONE ... CARRIED AWAY!
6

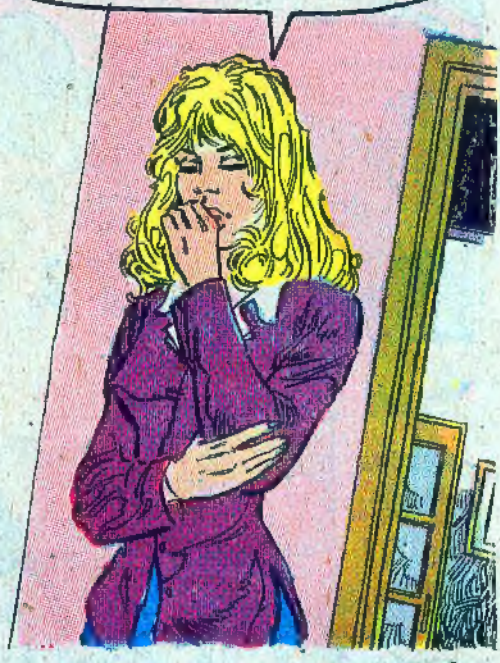

HOW DO WE REPORT THIS?
WE DON'T! IN THE MORNING, I'M COMING BACK OUT HERE FOR A CAREFUL LOOK AROUND. THERE'S NOT MUCH TO SEE AT NIGHT!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT OAKLAND WAS ON HIS WAY HERE. IT SHOULD HAVE ONLY TAKEN HIM FIFTEEN MINUTES!
IT'S ALMOST DAWN!
DO YOU THINK IT'S SAFE TO GO OUTSIDE NOW? THE SPIDER MUST BE GONE!
IT IS BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE OUT THERE.
JEEZ! I'VE NEVER SEEN CREATURES LIKE THAT BEFORE!
WE'VE GOT TO BE DREAMING! THOSE MONSTROSITIES CAN'T EXIST IN REALITY!
THIS IS FOR REAL, KATE. I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY, BUT I DO KNOW THAT WE'RE AWAKE!
THE ANSWER TO THE PUZZLE HAD ARRIVED AT OAKLAND'S OFFICE THAT MORNING AS THE LAW OFFICER WAS ABOUT TO RETURN TO WHERE THE BENSON HOUSE ONCE STOOD.
I'M DR. CLERVAL FROM THE RESEARCH CENTER. WE'VE LOST AN IMPORTANT VIAL FROM ONE OF THE TRUCKS. IT CONTAINS A RADIOACTIVE CHEMICAL CALLED UX-DELTA.
I CAN'T HELP YOU NOW, DOC. SOME FRIENDS OF MINE ARE MISSING!


I MAY BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN YOUR FRIENDS DISAPPEARANCE. IT'S RELATED TO MY PROBLEM!
OAKLAND, YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING. LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY BOY!
WHAT, IN HEAVENS NAME IS THAT?
IT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FRIENDS. THE RADIATION FROM UX-DELTA HAS REDUCED THEM IN SIZE.
IF THEY'VE RECEIVED A HIGHER DOSAGE THEN THEY MAY BE NO LARGER THAN BACTERIA.
COME WITH ME, DOC. WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE BENSONS BEFORE THEY VANISH ALTOGETHER!
NO DANGER OF THAT. THE RADIATIONS SPAN IS SHORT AND ONCE IT'S GONE, THE REDUCING PROCESS BEGINS TO REVERSE ITSELF UNTIL NORMALCY IS RETURNED.
I COULD HAVE STEPPED ON THEM LAST NIGHT!
EEEEE
AT THE BENSON FARM, SHERIFF OAKLAND WAS RELIEVED TO DISCOVER THAT THE REVERSE PROCESS HAD BEGUN IN TIME.
THE RAYS REDUCED EVERYTHING IN THE AREA ...TREES, GRASS THE HOUSE. THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T NOTICE THE CHANGE UNTIL A CREATURE FROM OUTSIDE ENTERED YOUR SECTION.
LIKE THOSE GERMS. I'LL BET MEDICAL SCIENCE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT USING A SHOTGUN TO CURE DISEASE - DID THEY?
END

JULIE ADORED THE PORTRAIT HER HUSBAND HAD PAINTED OF HER. IT WAS AN INSPIRED WORK OF ART WHOSE EVERY BRUSHSTROKE CAREFULLY INSCRIBED HIS DEVOTION TO HER. BUT THE PAINTING WAS IN A CHEAP FRAME AND JULIE'S GREAT FAULT WAS THAT SHE COULD NOT LEAVE THINGS AS THEY WERE.

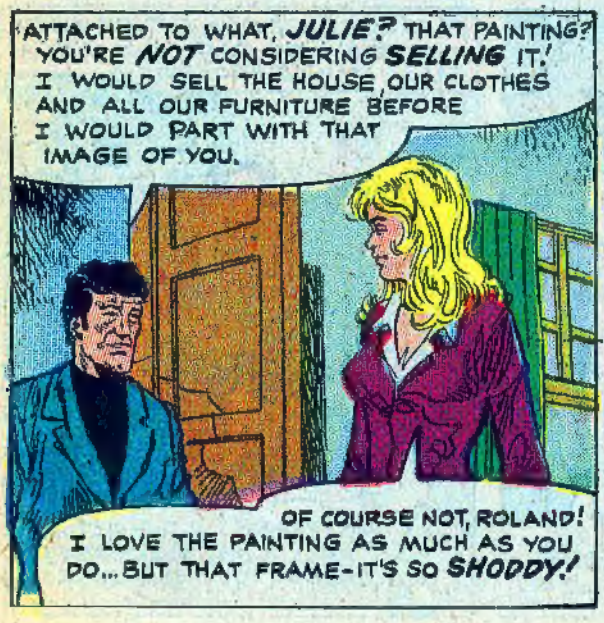






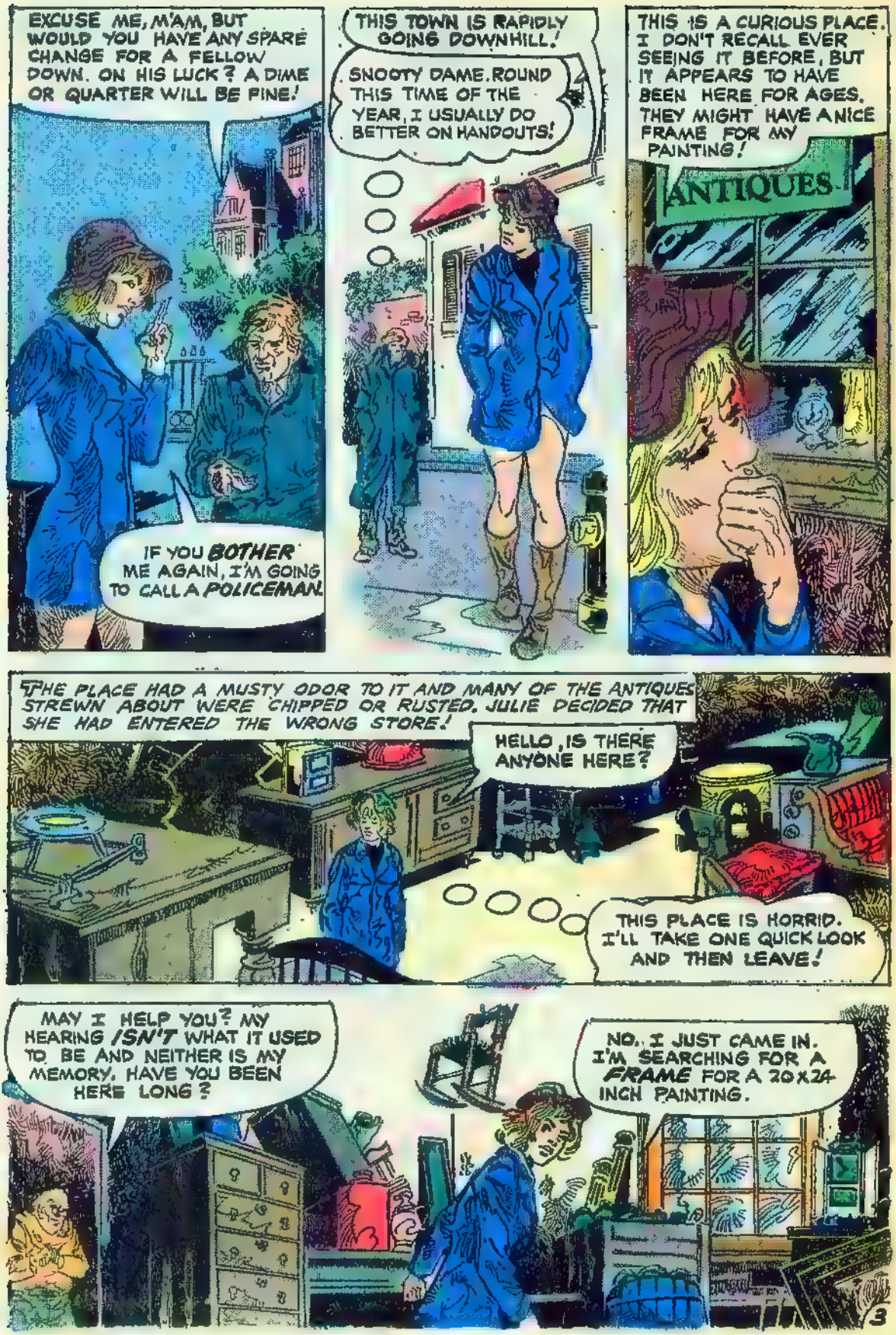
D BO4!

the MONTEGO FRAME

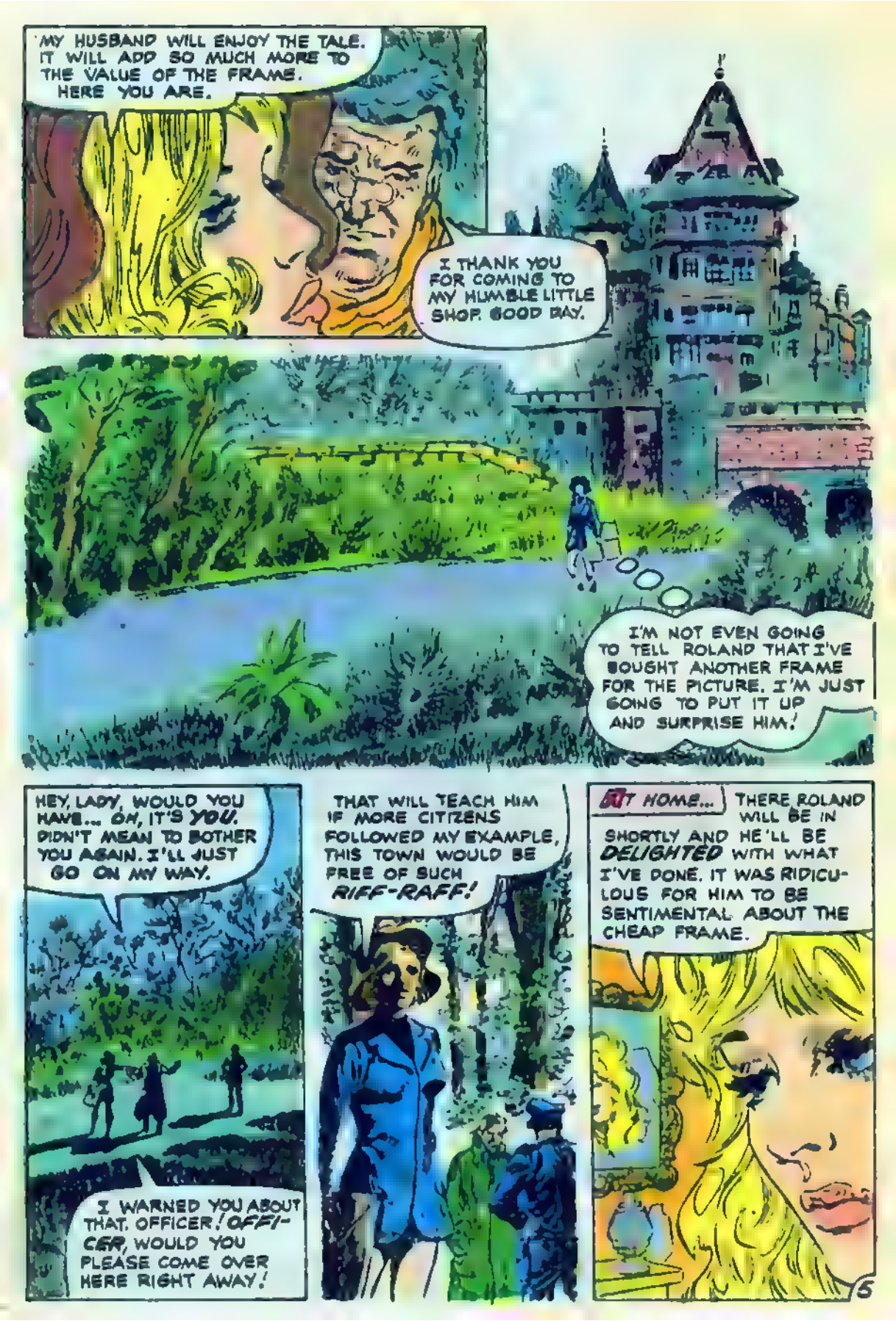

ATTACHED TO WHAT, JULIE? THAT PAINTING? YOU'RE NOT CONSIDERING SELLING IT! I WOULD SELL THE HOUSE, OUR CLOTHES AND ALL OUR FURNITURE BEFORE I WOULD PART WITH THAT IMAGE OF YOU.
OF COURSE NOT, ROLAND! I LOVE THE PAINTING AS MUCH AS YOU DO... BUT THAT FRAME - IT'S SO SHODDY!

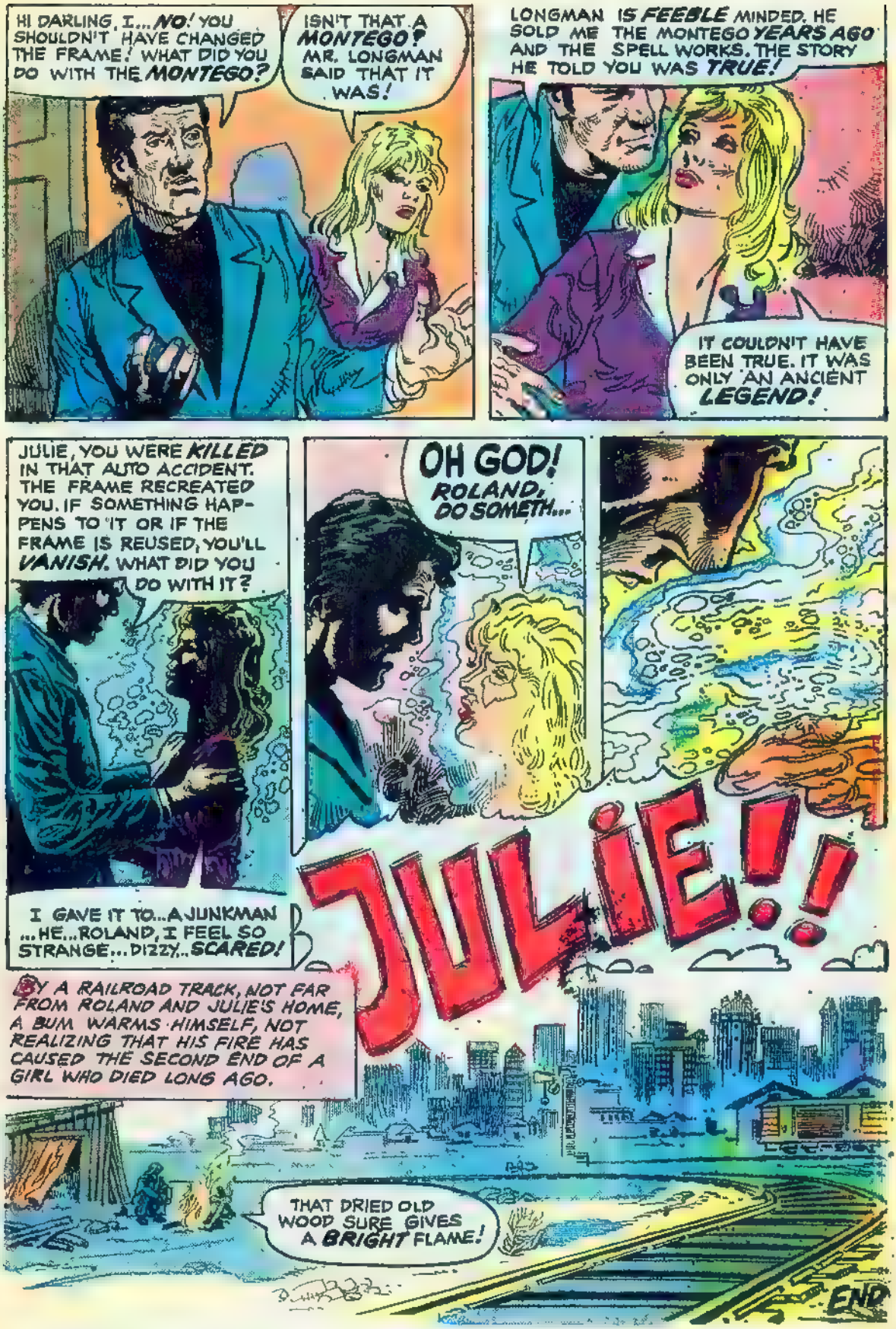
WHEN WE WERE POOR, THE FRAME WAS GOOD ENOUGH. I WANT TO KEEP IT TO REMIND US OF THOSE DAYS!
ALRIGHT, DARLING, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WISH.

"IT REMINDS ME OF THAT RAINY NIGHT," SAID ROLAND THOUGHTFULLY, "WHEN WE HAD THAT SILLY ARGUMENT AND YOU DROVE OFF IN THE CAR ONLY TO SKID INTO A TREE!
"I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO LOSE YOU. THOSE HOURS I SPENT AT THE HOSPITAL BY YOUR BEDSIDE WERE A TERRIBLE STRAIN."
"WHEN I WAS HOME AFTER VISITING TIME, I COULDN'T SLEEP THINKING ABOUT YOU AND SO I PAINTED YOUR PORTRAIT."
I KNOW, DEAR, YOU PRESENTED ME WITH THE PICTURE WHEN I CAME HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL AND I HAVE TREASURED IT EVER SINCE!
THEN PLEASE LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE!
"I PROMISE," SHE SAID, BUT HER WORD WAS GIVEN TOO EASILY AND JUST AS EASILY IT WAS BROKEN.
ONCE ROLAND SEES THE NEW FRAME ON THE PICTURE, HE'LL LOVE IT AND FORGET ABOUT THAT OLD JUNK!
2


EXCUSE ME, M'AM, BUT WOULD YOU HAVE ANY SPARE CHANGE FOR A FELLOW DOWN ON HIS LUCK? A DIME OR QUARTER WILL BE FINE!
IF YOU BOTHER ME AGAIN, I'M GOING TO CALL A POLICEMAN.
THIS TOWN IS RAPIDLY GOING DOWNHILL!
SNOOTY DAME. ROUND THIS TIME OF THE YEAR, I USUALLY DO BETTER ON HANDOUTS!
THIS IS A CURIOUS PLACE. I DON'T RECALL EVER SEEING IT BEFORE, BUT IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN HERE FOR AGES. THEY MIGHT HAVE A NICE FRAME FOR MY PAINTING!
ANTIQUES
THE PLACE HAD A MUSTY ODOR TO IT AND MANY OF THE ANTIQUES STREWN ABOUT WERE CHIPPED OR RUSTED. JULIE DECIDED THAT SHE HAD ENTERED THE WRONG STORE!
HELLO, IS THERE ANYONE HERE?
THIS PLACE IS HORRID. I'LL TAKE ONE QUICK LOOK AND THEN LEAVE!
MAY I HELP YOU? MY HEARING ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE AND NEITHER IS MY MEMORY. HAVE YOU BEEN HERE LONG?
NO. I JUST CAME IN. I'M SEARCHING FOR A FRAME FOR A 20X24 INCH PAINTING.

THAT'S AN UNUSUAL SIZE, BUT I THINK... IT'S BACK HERE SOMEWHERE. VERY FINE EXAMPLE OF EUROPEAN CRAFTSMANSHIP.
UH, DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF. THERE'S AN ART STORE A FEW BLOCKS DOWN THE STREET.
AH! HERE IT IS. I BELIEVE ... YES, IT IS A MONTEGO. STRANGE STORY BEHIND IT.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL. A BIT DUSTY, BUT THAT'S ALL. TELL ME THE STORY.
MONTEGO CARVED FRAMES FOR A LIVING, BUT ON THE SIDE HE WAS A SORCERER.
HOW THRILLING! DID HE PUT A CURSE ON THE FRAME?
NOT A CURSE, BUT A SPELL.
WHATEVER PICTURE WOULD BE PLACED IN HIS FRAME WOULD MATERIALIZE AND WOULD REMAIN TANGIBLE FOR AS LONG AS THE FRAME AND PICTURE STAYED TOGETHER.


MY HUSBAND WILL ENJOY THE TALE. IT WILL ADD SO MUCH MORE TO THE VALUE OF THE FRAME. HERE YOU ARE.
I THANK YOU FOR COMING TO MY HUMBLE LITTLE SHOP. GOOD DAY.
I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO TELL ROLAND THAT I'VE BOUGHT ANOTHER FRAME FOR THE PICTURE. I'M JUST GOING TO PUT IT UP AND SURPRISE HIM!
HEY, LADY, WOULD YOU MIND... OH, IT'S YOU. DIDN'T MEAN TO BOTHER YOU AGAIN. I'LL JUST GO ON MY WAY.
I WARNED YOU ABOUT THAT, OFFICER! OFFI-CER, WOULD YOU PLEASE COME OVER HERE RIGHT AWAY!
THAT WILL TEACH HIM IF MORE CITIZENS FOLLOWED MY EXAMPLE, THIS TOWN WOULD BE FREE OF SUCH RIFF-RAFF!
AT HOME... THERE ROLAND WILL BE IN SHORTLY AND HE'LL BE DELIGHTED WITH WHAT I'VE DONE. IT WAS RIDICULOUS FOR HIM TO BE SENTIMENTAL ABOUT THE CHEAP FRAME.
5


HI DARLING, I... NO! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE CHANGED THE FRAME! WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE MONTEGO?
ISN'T THAT A MONTEGO? MR. LONGMAN SAID THAT IT WAS!
LONGMAN IS FEEBLE MINDED. HE SOLD ME THE MONTEGO YEARS AGO AND THE SPELL WORKS. THE STORY HE TOLD YOU WAS TRUE!
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN TRUE. IT WAS ONLY AN ANCIENT LEGEND!
JULIE, YOU WERE KILLED IN THAT AUTO ACCIDENT. THE FRAME RECREATED YOU. IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO IT OR IF THE FRAME IS REUSED, YOU'LL VANISH. WHAT DID YOU DO WITH IT?
OH GOD! ROLAND, DO SOMETH...
I GAVE IT TO...A JUNKMAN ...HE...ROLAND, I FEEL SO STRANGE...DIZZY...SCARED!
JULIE!!
BY A RAILROAD TRACK, NOT FAR FROM ROLAND AND JULIE'S HOME, A BUM WARMS HIMSELF, NOT REALIZING THAT HIS FIRE HAS CAUSED THE SECOND END OF A GIRL WHO DIED LONG AGO.
THAT DRIED OLD WOOD SURE GIVES A BRIGHT FLAME!
END

IT WAS A SULTRY DAY. THE SUN BEAT DOWN RELENTLESSLY ON THE BATHERS AT WINBROOK, LONG ISLAND. THICKENED BLOOD MOVED SLUGGISHLY THROUGH THE BODY CAUSING THOSE NOT IN THE WATER TO LIE ABOUT LAZILY ON THE SAND.

MOMMY, DADDY. THERE'S A *GIANT* ON THE BEACH!

ANOTHER DEAD *WHALE* PROBABLY FLOATED IN ON THE TIDE.

THE UNUSUAL EVENT STIRRED A FEW TO MOVEMENT BUT MOST PREFERRED TO REMAIN WHERE THEY WERE.

I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK, HONEY. SHOW ME WHERE THE WHALE IS, JIMMY.

I MIGHT AS WELL GO WITH YOU.

IT HAD BEEN SAID THAT GIANTS ONCE WALKED THE EARTH AND IF THAT WAS TRUE, THEN WHERE HAVE THEY GONE? SURELY, A RACE SO POWERFUL AND INTELLIGENT COULD NOT HAVE DIED OUT, AT LEAST, NOT COMPLETELY AS VIC AND CAROL HALPERN DISCOVERED ON THE DAY THEIR LITTLE SON FOUND A.....

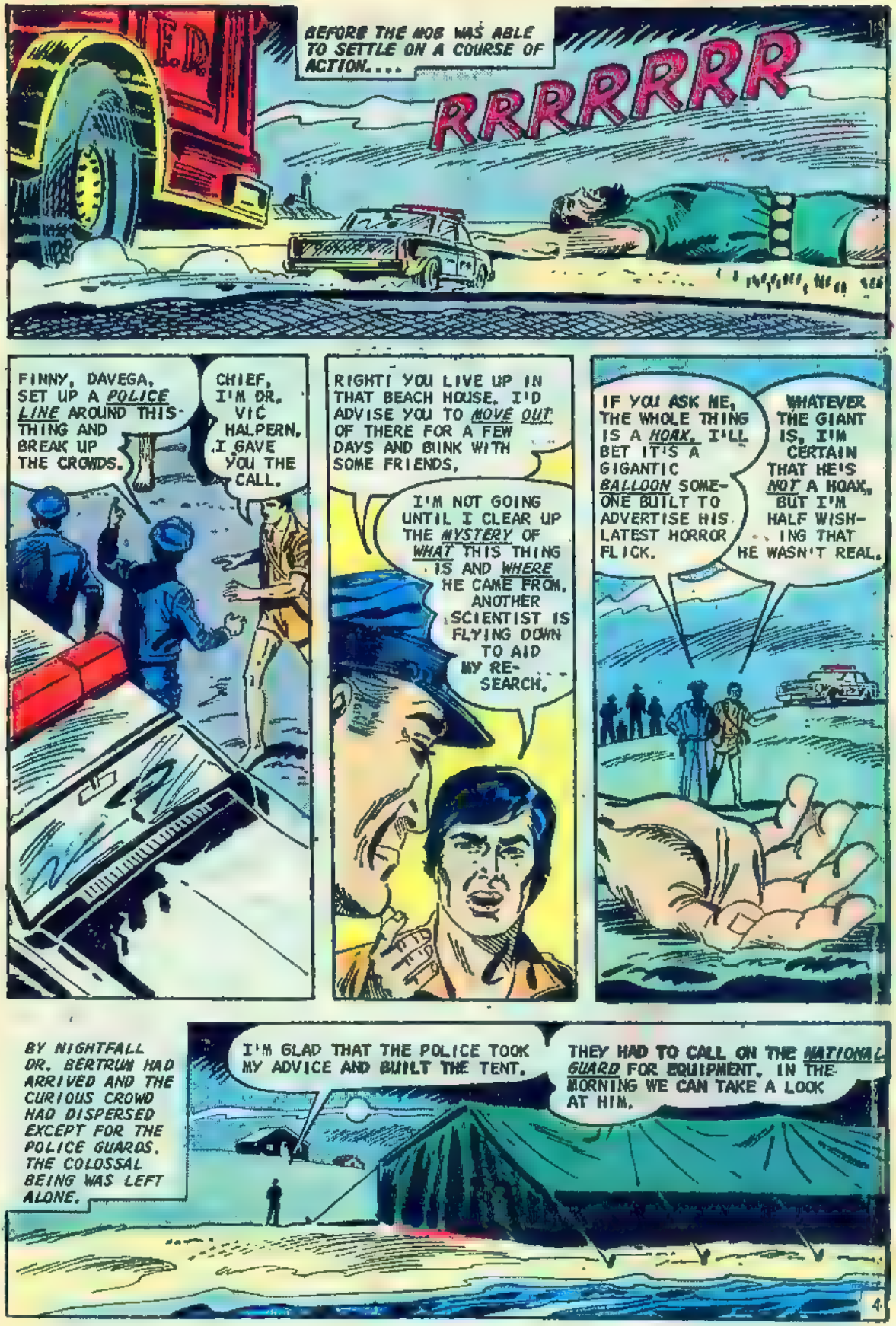
YOU SEE, DADDY, IT ISN'T A WHALE.

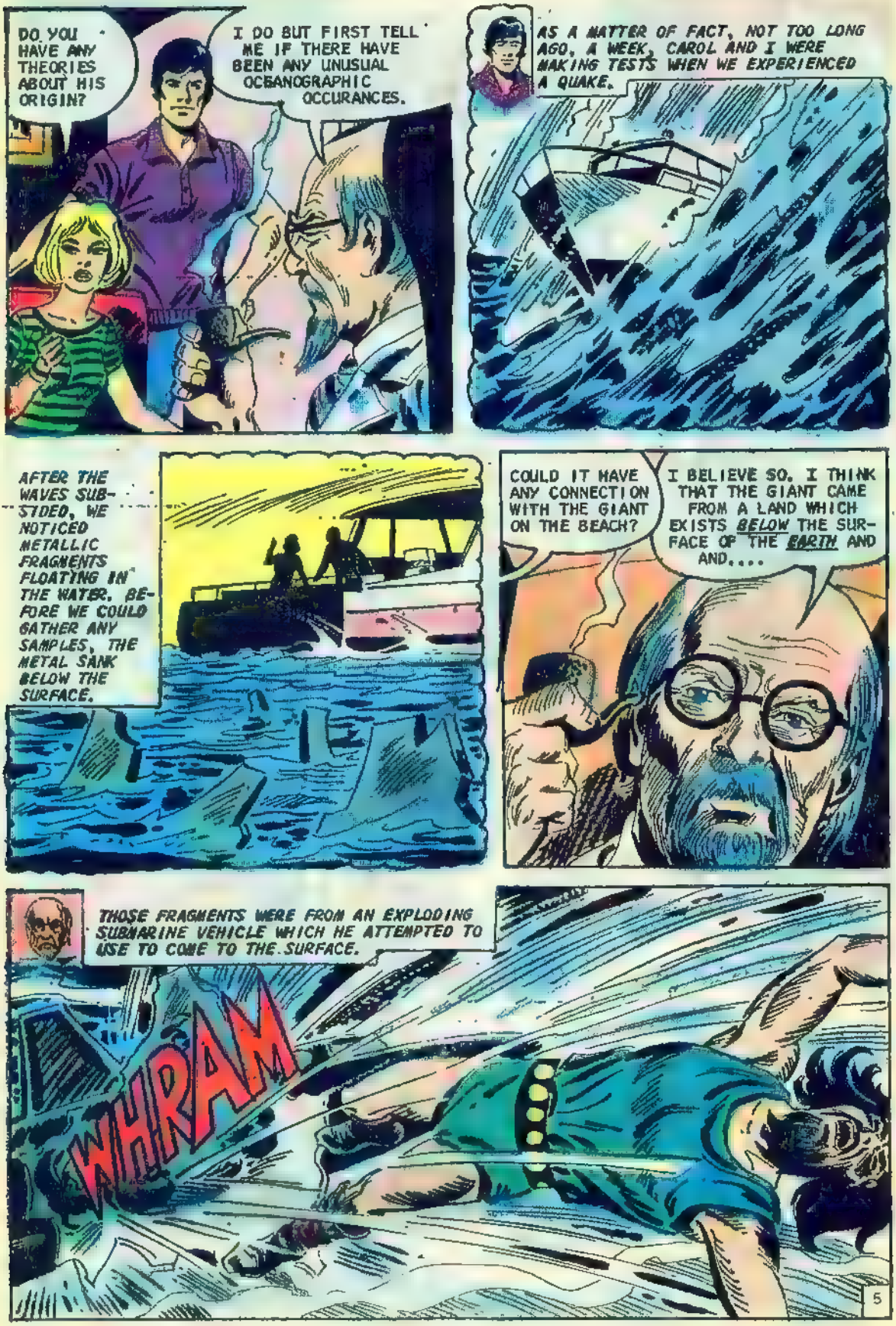
NO, JIMMY, IT CERTAINLY *ISN'T* A WHALE.

GIANT on the BEACH

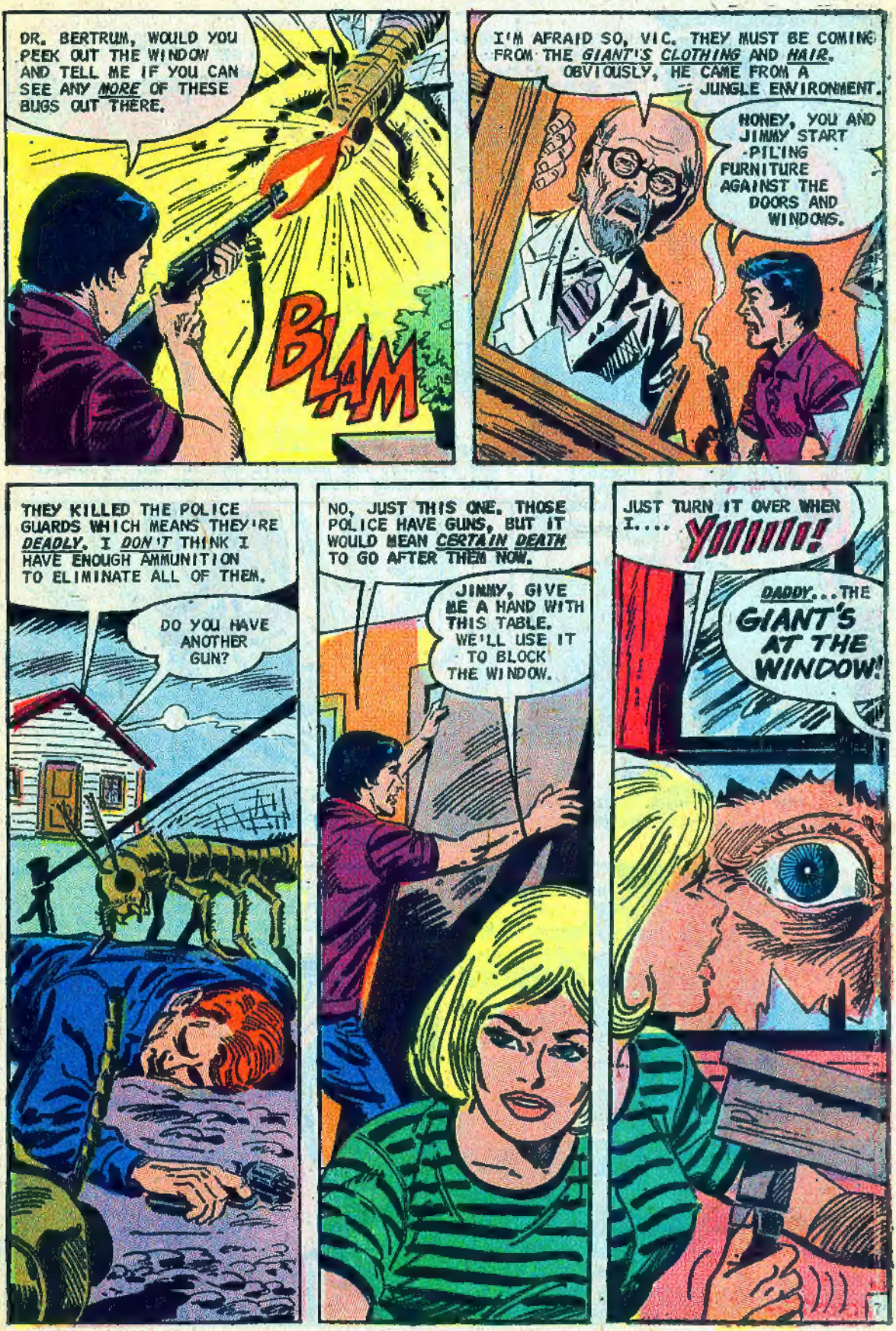
IS IT STILL ALIVE?
I DON'T KNOW, CAROL. I THOUGHT I SAW ITS STOMACH...YES, THERE IT GOES. IT'S BREATHING!
I'D SURE LIKE TO KEEP THIS DISCOVERY A SECRET UNTIL I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO CHECK IT OUT AND CALL SOME OTHER SCIENTISTS TO EXAMINE HIM.
IT WOULD BE NICE, BUT I DON'T SEE HOW YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HIDE IT.
I'M GOING TO THE HOUSE TO GET MY CAMERA AND PHONE DR. BERTRUM AT THE MUSEUM. DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO THE GIANT AND IF ANY PEOPLE SHOW UP, TRY TO KEEP THEM AWAY.
PLEASE HURRY BACK, VIC, AND CALL THE POLICE, TOO.
VIC AND CAROL WERE MARINE BIOLOGISTS BUT THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE SEA TOLD THEM THAT CREATURES SUCH AS THE LEVIATHAN ON THE BEACH DID NOT EXIST....
THAT'S WHY I'M CALLING YOU, DR. BERTRUM. YOU'RE THE ANTHROPOLOGIST AND THIS CREATURE FALLS UNDER YOUR REALM. YES, AT LEAST 150 FEET LONG.
TRY TO KEEP THE GIANT COVERED. BUILD A TENT OVER IT OR EXPOSURE MIGHT KILL IT. I'M GOING TO CATCH THE FIRST PLANE I CAN.
2

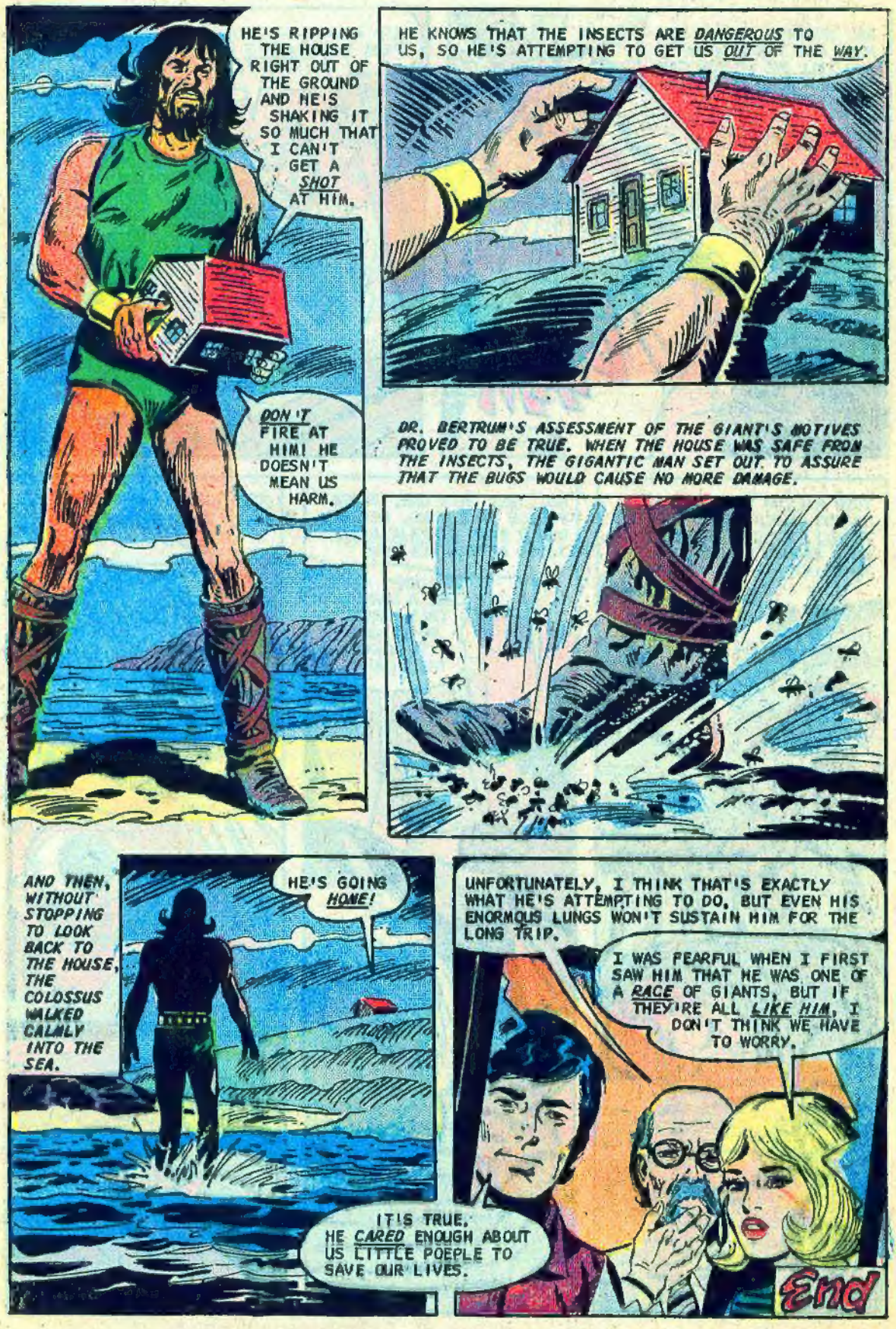
CROWDS? THEY'RE BEGINNING TO GATHER NOW. I'VE ALREADY INFORMED THE POLICE SO THEY SHOULD BE HERE SOON, RIGHT. GET TO THE BEACH AS SOON AS YOU CAN.
VIC, THEY WANT TO DESTROY THE GIANT! THEY'RE AFRAID OF IT.
I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. I WAS HOPING THAT THE POLICE WOULD COME BEFORE THE CROWDS ARRIVED.
HONEY, BRING JIMMY INTO THE HOUSE AND WAIT THERE. I'M GOING TO TRY AND SPEAK TO THEM, BUT IF THINGS GET VIOLENT, I WANT YOU BOTH OUT OF THE WAY.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
THE MEMBERS OF THE MOB WERE TOO BUSY ARGUING AMONGST THEMSELVES TO NOTICE THE MAN CLIMBING ON THE GIANT UNTIL HE SPOKE OUT LOUD.
THE THING IS A MENACE.
SUPPOSE IT WAKES UP?
IT COULD KILL US ALL.
LET ME HAVE YOUR ATTENTION.
I AM A SCIENTIST AND THIS CREATURE IS A VALUABLE DISCOVERY. WE CANNOT ALLOW IT TO BE HARMED. I AM ASKING YOU ALL TO ASSIST ME IN PROTECTING ITS LIFE.
AND WHO'S GOING TO PROTECT OUR LIVES?
YOUR HOUSE IS CLOSEST TO THE THING. YOU SHOULD HELP US BURN IT. SOMEONE GET THE GASOLINE.
3


BEFORE THE MOB WAS ABLE TO SETTLE ON A COURSE OF ACTION....
RRRRRRR
F.D.
FINNY, DAVEGA, SET UP A POLICE LINE AROUND THIS THING AND BREAK UP THE CROWDS.
CHIEF, I'M DR. VIC HALPERN. I GAVE YOU THE CALL.
RIGHT! YOU LIVE UP IN THAT BEACH HOUSE. I'D ADVISE YOU TO MOVE OUT OF THERE FOR A FEW DAYS AND BUNK WITH SOME FRIENDS.
I'M NOT GOING UNTIL I CLEAR UP THE MYSTERY OF WHAT THIS THING IS AND WHERE HE CAME FROM. ANOTHER SCIENTIST IS FLYING DOWN TO AID MY RE-SEARCH.
IF YOU ASK ME, THE WHOLE THING IS A HOAX. I'LL BET IT'S A GIGANTIC BALLOON SOMEONE BUILT TO ADVERTISE HIS LATEST HORROR FLICK.
WHATEVER THE GIANT IS, I'M CERTAIN THAT HE'S NOT A HOAX, BUT I'M HALF WISHING THAT HE WASN'T REAL.
BY NIGHTFALL DR. BERTRUM HAD ARRIVED AND THE CURIOUS CROWD HAD DISPERSED EXCEPT FOR THE POLICE GUARDS. THE COLOSSAL BEING WAS LEFT ALONE.
I'M GLAD THAT THE POLICE TOOK MY ADVICE AND BUILT THE TENT.
THEY HAD TO CALL ON THE NATIONAL GUARD FOR EQUIPMENT. IN THE MORNING WE CAN TAKE A LOOK AT HIM.


DO YOU HAVE ANY THEORIES ABOUT HIS ORIGIN?
I DO BUT FIRST TELL ME IF THERE HAVE BEEN ANY UNUSUAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OCCURANCES.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, NOT TOO LONG AGO, A WEEK, CAROL AND I WERE MAKING TESTS WHEN WE EXPERIENCED A QUAKE.
AFTER THE WAVES SUBSIDED, WE NOTICED METALLIC FRAGMENTS FLOATING IN THE WATER. BEFORE WE COULD GATHER ANY SAMPLES, THE METAL SANK BELOW THE SURFACE.
COULD IT HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH THE GIANT ON THE BEACH?
I BELIEVE SO. I THINK THAT THE GIANT CAME FROM A LAND WHICH EXISTS BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH AND AND....
THOSE FRAGMENTS WERE FROM AN EXPLODING SUBMARINE VEHICLE WHICH HE ATTEMPTED TO USE TO COME TO THE SURFACE.
WHRAM
5

A RACE OF GIANTS LIVING IN THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH? THAT SOUNDS FAR-FETCHED.
NOT AT ALL. WE'VE UNCOVERED...WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM?!
AAAIII!
MOMMY! HELP!
CAROL! GET MY RIFLE!
CRASSH
WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?!
WE'LL EXAMINE ONE AFTER WE KILL IT OR HE'LL END UP EXAMINING OUR BODIES.
THUD
BAM BAM BAM
THE ENORMOUS BUG MADE A LOUD NOISE LIKE A WIND-UP TOY UNWINDING, BUT BEFORE IT CEASED MOVING, OTHERS CAME TO REPLACE IT.
TWO MORE!
VIC, FIRE BETWEEN THEIR ANTENNA. I DON'T THINK THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO STOP THEM ANY OTHER WAY.
WRRR BAM
6


DR. BERTRUM, WOULD YOU PEEK OUT THE WINDOW AND TELL ME IF YOU CAN SEE ANY MORE OF THESE BUGS OUT THERE.
BLAM
I'M AFRAID SO, VIC. THEY MUST BE COMING FROM THE GIANT'S CLOTHING AND HAIR. OBVIOUSLY, HE CAME FROM A JUNGLE ENVIRONMENT.
HONEY, YOU AND JIMMY START PILING FURNITURE AGAINST THE DOORS AND WINDOWS.
THEY KILLED THE POLICE GUARDS WHICH MEANS THEY'RE DEADLY. I DON'T THINK I HAVE ENOUGH AMMUNITION TO ELIMINATE ALL OF THEM.
DO YOU HAVE ANOTHER GUN?
NO, JUST THIS ONE. THOSE POLICE HAVE GUNS, BUT IT WOULD MEAN CERTAIN DEATH TO GO AFTER THEM NOW.
JIMMY, GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS TABLE. WE'LL USE IT TO BLOCK THE WINDOW.
JUST TURN IT OVER WHEN I.... YOOOOO!
DADDY...THE GIANT'S AT THE WINDOW!


HE'S RIPPING THE HOUSE RIGHT OUT OF THE GROUND AND HE'S SHAKING IT SO MUCH THAT I CAN'T GET A SHOT AT HIM.
DON'T FIRE AT HIM! HE DOESN'T MEAN US HARM.
HE KNOWS THAT THE INSECTS ARE DANGEROUS TO US, SO HE'S ATTEMPTING TO GET US OUT OF THE WAY.
DR. BERTRUM'S ASSESSMENT OF THE GIANT'S MOTIVES PROVED TO BE TRUE. WHEN THE HOUSE WAS SAFE FROM THE INSECTS, THE GIGANTIC MAN SET OUT TO ASSURE THAT THE BUGS WOULD CAUSE NO MORE DAMAGE.
AND THEN, WITHOUT STOPPING TO LOOK BACK TO THE HOUSE, THE COLOSSUS WALKED CALMLY INTO THE SEA.
HE'S GOING HOME!
UNFORTUNATELY, I THINK THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE'S ATTEMPTING TO DO, BUT EVEN HIS ENORMOUS LUNGS WON'T SUSTAIN HIM FOR THE LONG TRIP.
I WAS FEARFUL WHEN I FIRST SAW HIM THAT HE WAS ONE OF A RACE OF GIANTS, BUT IF THEY'RE ALL LIKE HIM, I DON'T THINK WE HAVE TO WORRY.
IT IS TRUE. HE CARED ENOUGH ABOUT US LITTLE PEOPLE TO SAVE OUR LIVES.
End

The sun wasn't up yet when the miners assembled near the coal breaker. It was seven o'clock and time for the day shift to descend 600 feet into the Pennsylvania earth to mine the hard, glittering mineral so much in demand then. It was anthracite or hard coal.

Mike Grogan, a tough little man about forty, was a blaster. He drilled the holes and set the dynamite charges that ripped the mineral from the earth where, after millions of years, it had been transformed from stinking swamp ooze into what it was today.

The miners were silent, the usual banter missing for they were going down to work a new shaft. The State Inspectors had been down to check the heavy beams erected to hold the roof of the mine in place. Ventilation was in and pumps throbbed, dragging water from the shaft so the miners wouldn't drown.

But inspected or not, the miners disliked the shaft. Now, as they dropped into the bowels of the earth in the elevator, they said little. Mike Grogan looked around and spat his disgust.

"You're like a bunch of old women!" he told them. "You don't see me worryin', do ya? And I've got it worse than anyone else."

One miner, Gordie Toland, looked disgustedly at him.

"We don't expect YOU to worry, Grogan. Any fool who works with the stuff you handle ain't got sense enough to come in outa the rain."

Then, they were in the new shaft, following the narrow-gage tracks toward the end of the tunnel where they were 'working the seam', digging the two-foot thick layer of coal out of the surrounding slate and muck.

The miners used picks and shovels to clean away the litter, then Gordie used the air-powered jack to drill holes for his charges. He used generous charges because the crew had to dig its quota.

They moved back, away from the danger area, leaving Mike to lead the wires to his battery-powered detonator. When the T.N.T. was in place, Mike shoved the plunger.

The miners heard the muffled CRUMP! of the explosion and felt the earth tremble beneath their feet. Coal dust was billowing down the shaft and they waited a moment for the exhaust ventilators to suck out the dust and gases.

Then, they began moving up.

They were alert for danger ahead of them but when it came, the water was a knee deep flood that swirled through the shaft from the REAR! Then, they felt the earth tilt beneath their feet again and they felt the sound of falling earth and rock.

The shaft had collapsed behind them. There was no way out now.

"We'll be trapped here forever," one of them said, "They'll think we're all dead."

The men were told by the foreman to put out their lamps to conserve the lamps as well as the air they breathed.

Hours passed. Someone asked about Mike Grogan, finally.

"I found Mike, lads," the foreman said. "A roofbeam came down across his back. He died quick and easy which is more'n we're likely to do."

The rescuers reached them on the second day. Mr. German, the mine superintendent, gave all the credit to one man.

"If Mike Grogan didn't make it out to us and tell us exactly where you were, we'd never have gotten you out," he told them.

The miners looked at each other and some of them made the sign of the cross. They didn't tell them Mike Grogan was dead long before he helped rescue his mates.

They didn't think they'd be believed and they probably were right.